scrutiny. It is expected that the Act and the rules thereunder will be notified shortly.

Firing on Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

260. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent firing on fishermen from Wagapattinam and Thiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy; and

(b) the details of the action taken by Government to save the poor fishermen from the clutches of Sri Lankan Navy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Government of India is aware of incidents of alleged firing involving Sri Lankan Navy on Indian Fishermen from the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) During 2002, two incidents of alleged firing have been reported by the Office of Commissioner and Director of Fisheries, Chennai namely fishermen from Chidambaram District, fishing off Kodiakarai on 22.01.2002 and fishermen of Nagapattinam District again fishing off Kodiakarai on 23.04.2002. Every reported incident with specific details is taken up by the High Commission of India, Colombo with Sri Lankan authorities. Sri Lankan Navy has assured that their forces are under maximum restraint in dealing with Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters.

Government have suggested to the Sri Lankan Government that licensed fishing in their north-eastern waters be permitted for Indian fishermen.

Both sides agree that these cases should be dealt with in a spirit of compassion and understanding, in accordance with established legal procedures and in a humane manner.

Extradition of suspected accused of Purulia Case

261. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his visit to Denmark in October last, the Prime Minister was told by his Danish counterpart that

Kim Peter Davy, suspected to have air droped consignments of weapons in Purulia, West Bengal on December 17, 1996, would not be extradited to India; and

(b) if so, what diplomatic channel Government propose to utilize for the trial of Davy in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) It has been brought to the attention of the Danish authorities at the highest political level.

Double standard of Western Countries on Terrorism

262. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister, during his visit to UK in second week of October, aired his feeling that Western Countries were maintaining double standard on terrorism;

(b) whether this issue was raised during his meeting with the British Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the British Prime Minister's reaction thereto; and

(d) the other issues discussed with the British Government and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Prime Minister sensitised the UK Prime Minister regarding our concerns on the issue of cross-border terrorism during their meeting on 12 October, 2002.

(c) The British Prime Minister expressed complete understanding about our views.

(d) In addition to a comprehensive review of bilateral ties and the implementation of the New Delhi Declaration, both leaders held wide-ranging discussions on global and regional issues of mutual concern. The British Prime Minister congratulated India on the successful conduct of elections in Jammu & Kashmir and reiterated full support of the UK to India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.